

The Florida Press

Not a Native of Florida.

Some of the newspapers continue to assert that Governor Gilchrist is the 55th native Floridian that has been elected to this office, but the governor himself says that he was born in Greenwood, S. C. His parents, however, were citizens of Florida at the time of his birth.—Ocala Banner.

What Some Lawyers Think.

Some of the most eminent constitutional lawyers in Florida insist that a constitutional amendment is not necessary to make Florida a prohibition state. They say the legislature has ample constitutional authority to settle the question. If this is the case, in all probability Florida will join the prohibition ranks as the legislature is composed mostly of "dry" men.—Clay County Times.

A Satisfactory Appointment.

The appointment of Miss Jefferson, as an secretary of the state pension board, made by Gov. Gilchrist, will be satisfactory to the press of Florida. Miss Bell, as a newspaper correspondent, stands high in the estimation of the fraternity. She knows what she is doing, and that is no common gift. At the same time, she is a thoroughly well fitted for the post to which she has been appointed.—Times-Union.

Should Be Hung with Fisher.

For the presidency of the state senate the log of war is on between Senator Fred Hudson, of Miami, and Senator Joe Humphreys, of Bradenton. If we were a member of the senate we'd insist on a secret ballot, for we'd be ashamed for anybody to know we voted against the other. Like the lover who said of his sweetheart he could be so happy with either if t'other dear member were away.—Clay County Times.

Why Cooper Won't Hang.

Now what are those blood-thirsty editors who howled long and loud for John Cooper to be hung going to do to Gov. Gilchrist? Instead of signing the death warrant he joined with the other members of the pardoning board in commuting the sentence to life imprisonment. The Breeze said some time since that he would be no more anxious to fix a date for Cooper's execution than had Jennings or Broward, because to hang Cooper would be to destroy the last chance to convict those who are as guilty as Cooper. Now do you understand?—DeFuniak Breeze.

Not His Favorite.

We have had nothing to say about who would be elected Speaker of the House or President of the Senate, because we are not in a position to know who are in the lead and have no favorites among the candidates. There are enough of them to fill a barn, and we are inclined to believe that they are all good men and true, capable of handling the gavel with credit to themselves and profit to the State. We want men for both positions who are in favor of economy and retrenchment. The last legislature went wild on expenditure. We hope the present one will be conservative and considerate of the pockets of the tax payers.—Brooksville Argus.

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Broward and the Cooper Case.

Judge Wall, of the circuit court, in a chat with the attorneys brought up the Cooper affair, brought to notice by the commutation by the pardoning board to life imprisonment. The judge said that Governor Broward had on one occasion asked him to give him his candid opinion as to the guilt of Cooper. He said he unhesitatingly answered that he considered him guilty. The governor in reply made the statement that "he was of the same opinion and voted that way, but that other members of the pardoning board in view of the fact that circumstantial evidence was the character of the evidence, could not see their way clear to do other than they had."—St. Petersburg Times.

Says Appointment is Legal.

Both George Mathews of our namesake at Bartow, and Frank L. Mayes of the Pensacola Journal are in error in their contentions that the Governor's appointment of Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher as United States Senator will not be accepted by the Senate, that Mr. Fletcher will not be allowed to take his seat in that body until regularly elected by the legislature. If the legislature had met before the 4th of March and failed to elect then the present appointment by the Governor would not hold before the Senate, but the legislature has had no opportunity to elect, and Mr. Fletcher will be seated. It is remembered that Pasco received an ad interim appointment, from the 4th of March until the legislature elected, and was seated without a protest.—Volusia Record.

Fine Points for Pencil Pushers.

What is success in the newspaper business? Henry Watterson is a practically a poor man, working for a salary. Yet, he is as well known in the civilized world as Bryan, Roosevelt, Edison, or Rockefeller. His personal influence as a private citizen in America would exceed that of Roosevelt's or Taft's as private citizens, or Rockefeller's without his wealth. Or is the standard of newspaper success based upon wealth? If so who is the most successful of the wealthy, Hearst, Bennett, Pulitzer, et al? Is Watterson less a success than the last three mentioned? Is John Temple Graves more a success than his employer, Wm. Hearst? If Graves is more a success than Hearst, then which was first, the hen or the egg? There's some fine points for the pencil pushers to solve.—White Springs Herald.

Watterson Quits Lecture Platform.

Every citizen of Florida—of which he is a winter resident—will deeply sympathize with Editor Henry Watterson of the Louisville Courier-Journal in the bitter affliction which has just taken from him another prized member of his family. The bereavement deprived us of Tampa of the pleasure of hearing and greeting and doing him honor as one of the distinguished guests of a distinguished occasion. It will fall like a blow to learn that Mr. Watterson announces his permanent retirement from the platform which he graces with an earnestness and delicacy second to no man. Let us hope that time may soften the blow and that he will return to the sphere in which he served the people with so much zeal and so great profit to the classes which flock to his instructions and ministrations.—Tampa Times.

Inhumanity to a Convict.

On another page of this paper is a story of inhumanity that should bring a blush of shame to the face of every Floridian and sense of indignation that should not cool until the last vestige in the intolerable convict lease system is wiped off the statute books and the parties guilty of such crimes as the whipping of Dudley doing time themselves. Dudley was a thief, a self-confessed thief, and as such was deserving of punishment. More than that he was a bad character generally, but he was a human being, a man and a white man, and under the contract with the county he was to be worked but given good care and proper treatment, but instead of that he was beaten into the condition where he was helpless and when there was no longer any legal force to compel even such care as was given he was hauled off like a sick dog and put by the road side to die, and that he did not die was due to the kind

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heartedness first of a negro woman and later of the Christian people of Perry.—DeFuniak Breeze.

Remedy for Vagrants.

Sopchoppy, whose name suggests anything besides the American idea of progressiveness, has come forward as an exemplar. This little town down in Liberty county, if we are not mistaken, has resolved to put to good use the gentleman of leisure who are brought before its local courts. It means to make them help in beautifying a city whose hospitality they have abused and whose laws they have broken.

Hereafter, in Sopchoppy, every individual who has been arrested, been hauled to court, who has been fined and who, upon reaching down in his jeans to find the "wherewithal" has found it lacking, will be put to work to plant two cabbage palmettos to add to the scenic attraction of the town.

The scheme is an excellent one, and it might pay the larger communities to adopt it.—Sanford Herald.

Will Utilize Pine Stumps.

That paper factory to be located at Gainesville will put a value upon the pine stumps which now disfigure our fields and are an eyesore to the farmer. These stumps will be useful in the manufacture of paper under the new process. This will be one of the largest paper mills in the United States. It is said the plant will cost about two million dollars and will employ a large number of hands. It is being financed by its promoter, C. W. Chase of Gainesville, and by eastern and English capitalists. Paper made from pine is said

to be superior to that from any other fiber, in many respects, and the process has passed the stage of experiment. Florida, as well as Gainesville, may prove to be lucky in having a factory for cheap production of one of the most useful material of modern times located in one of its cities.—Times-Union.

Better Off in the Open.

We observe that some of our contemporaries continue to inveigh against the convict lease system, losing sight entirely of the incident that the doctors prescribe outdoor exercise as the best medicine even for invalids. The editor of this paper believes that with proper restrictions as to hours of labor, comfortable clothing and quarters and nourishing food these unfortunates are better off at work in the open than they would be in close confinement at sedentary employment. It would seem an easy matter for the board of state institutions to prescribe the quantity and character of clothing necessary for the comfort of the convicts and the army ration will certainly furnish them the basis for prescribing nourishing and sustaining food. This ration embraces nothing but plain food, but is scientifically based on the needs of robust men.—Starke Telegraph.

Bryan Spoke Without Pay.

Considerable speculation has been indulged in throughout the city based on the idea that Mr. Bryan was paid a large sum of money by the State Fair Association to come to Tampa and deliver his several addresses here. The fact is that Mr. Bryan received only his expenses from Lincoln to Tampa

from the Fair Association and no other remuneration whatsoever. The Fair Association offered to pay Mr. Bryan's expenses for the return trip home, but he refused to accept this, stating that he had several lecture dates to fill on his way home and did not think it right to accept return expenses for this reason. This statement is made to correct the erroneous impression that Mr. Bryan charged the Fair Association a fee for his visit and speeches. He accepts compensation only for his lectures and not for public appearances such as accompanied his coming to Tampa.—Tampa Tribune.

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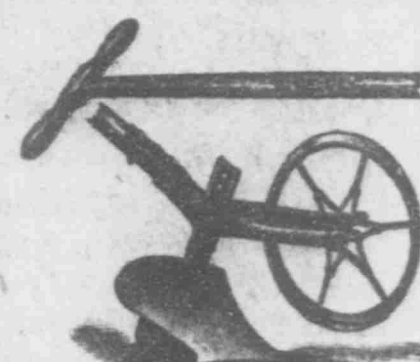
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